

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANAA 00919 210808Z

15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 101422

R 210530Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5360

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0919

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, EAID, PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: AA/NESA NOOTER CALL ON PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI

1. ON APRIL 20 AA/NESA ROBERT NOOTER CALLED ON PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR SCOTES AND AID DIRECTOR AL RUIZ. ALSO PRESENT WERE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY SHEIKH ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR AND FONMIN ABDULLAH AL-ASNAG.

2. AS EXPECTED, BOTH AL-HAMDI AND AL-AHMAR EXPRESSED YARG GRATITUDE FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST BUT STRESSED THE NEED FOR A GREATER USAID PRESENCE IN YEMEN. IN THIS REGARD, PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI NOTED THAT WHILE YARG APPRECIATIVE OF ASSISTANCE COMING TO IT FROM SISTERLY ARAB STATES IN COOPERATION WITH THE US, YEMEN WOULD PREFER TO SEE A STRONGER AND MORE DIRECT AID RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YEMEN AND THE UNITED STATES, IMPLYING THAT "SISTERLY" AID IS OFTER SLOW AND BEGRUDGING.

3. SHEIKH AL-AHMAR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS AGAIN HIS CONCERN THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO-CHINA PRESAGE A WEAKENING OF US SUPPORT FOR ITS FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THIS SAME REGARD, PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI NOTED AS HE HAS IN THE PAST YEMEN'S CONCERN  
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ABOUT THE RISE IN RADICALISM IN NEARBY SOMALIA,

ETHIOPIA AND ADEN.

4. BOTH MR NOOTER AND AMBASSADOR SCOTES EMPHASIZED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ITS FRIENDS PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ITS FRIENDS REALIZE THAT US ASSISTANCE IS NOT THE SOLE REMEDY BUT THAT THERE MUST BE INTERNAL UNITY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MODERATE FORCES IN A COUNTRY IF THAT COUNTRY IS TO SUCCEED IN DEFENDING ITSELF AGAINST FOREIGN-INSPIRED AND-SUPPORTED EXTREMISM. MR NOOTER OBSERVED THAT US HAD EXPENDED APPROXIMATELY \$162 BILLION IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN ADDITION TO THE IRREPLACEABLE EXPENDITURE OF AMERICAN BLOOD.

5. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THIS CONCERN ABOUT THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE WHICH RECENT FAR EAST DEVELOPMENTS MAY HAVE ON THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO ME SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST BY BOTH PRESIDENT HAMDI AND SHEIKH AL-AHMAR AS WELL AS OTHER PROMINENT YEMENIS. MR NOOTER'S CALL, HOWEVER, WAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE TO BOTH PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI AND SHEIKH AL-AHMAR (PARTICULARLY THE LATTER) THE NEED FOR THE MODERATE FORCES OF YEMEN TO WORK TOGETHER, IN VIEW OF RECENT REPORTS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING OF INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES INSPIRED BY SHEIKH AL-AHMAR'S PRETENSIONS TO A LARGER ROLE FOR THE CONSERVATIVES IN YEMEN'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.  
SCOTES

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